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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 /092 W
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R 081344Z NOV 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6898
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY DZ DATE 3 MAR 1982
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MADRID 13260

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC; USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: PSOE AGAIN ADVOCATES PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE

1. SUMMARY: THE PSOE LEADERSHIP, THIS TIME AT THE VANCOUVER SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL MEETING, HAS AGAIN COME OUT FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE. WE CONTINUE TO POINT OUT TO PARTY LEADERS THE CONTRADICTIONS INHERENT IN THEIR POSTURE ON THE ISSUE AND THE INAPPROPRIATENESS OF THEIR POSITION. BUT THE PARTY'S ADVOCACY OF PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE DERIVES FROM A COMBINATION OF EMOTIVE
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AND TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS WHICH ARE UNLIKELY TO CHANGE

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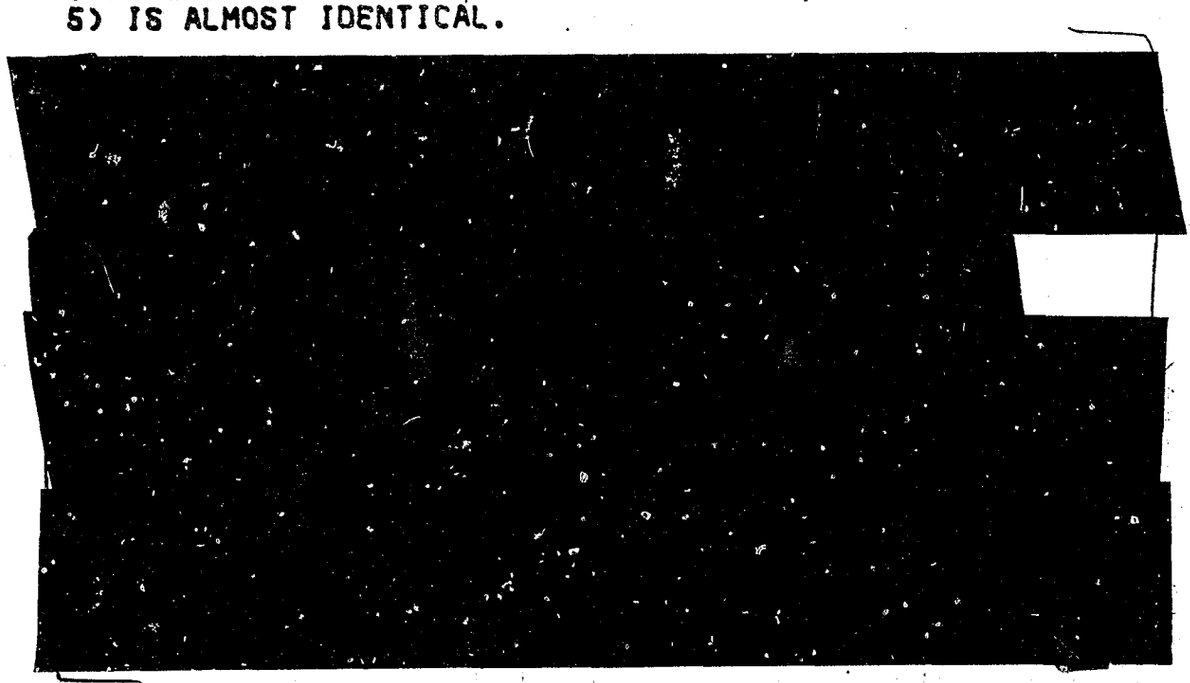
SIGNIFICANTLY IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO MADRID'S EL PAIS, PSOE SECGEN FELIPE GONZALEZ CALLED ON THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, AT ITS VANCOUVER MEETING, TO SUPPORT THE PUERTO RICAN SOCIALISTS IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE. EL PAIS CONTINUES, "IN A CLEAR REFERENCE TO THE US, GONZALEZ SAID THAT THE INTERNATIONAL SHOULD SUPPORT THE CAUSE OF PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE, EVEN THOUGH THIS WOULD UPSET SOME WHO ARE VERY POWERFUL."

3. GONZALEZ' REPORTED STATEMENT IS BUT THE LATEST REITERATION OF THE PSOE'S SUPPORT FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE. THE MOST RECENT PREEVANCOUVER DECLARATION TO THIS EFFECT TOOK PLACE AT THE OCTOBER SOCIALIST CONFERENCE ON DEMOCRACY IN LATIN AMERICA, IN LISBON -- MADRID 12066. WE CONTINUE TO POINT OUT TO PSOE LEADERS THAT THEIR ADVOCACY OF PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE IS INCONSISTENT WITH THEIR OWN INSISTENCE ON NON-INTERVENTION AND THE CONCEPT OF SELF-DETERMINATION, SINCE THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE, IN DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS, HAVE REPEATEDLY REJECTED THE INDEPENDENCE OPTION OVERWHELMINGLY. IN THIS REGARD, WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO THEM THAT THE PARTY'S POSTURE IS AS INAPPROPRIATE AS USG ADVOCACY OF INDEPENDENCE FOR THE CANARIES WOULD BE, PARTICULARLY IN THAT THE PRO-INDEPENDENCE VOTE IN PUERTO RICO AND THE CANARIES (ABOUT 5) IS ALMOST IDENTICAL.



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5. AT ROOT THESE PSOE LEADERS CONSIDER PUERTO RICO JUST ONE MORE CARIBBEAN ISLAND DOMINATED BY THE US; BY AN ACCIDENT OF HISTORY IT HAPPENS TO BE AN ASSOCIATED STATE RATHER THAN AN INDEPENDENT ONE, LIKE THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. THE FACT THAT FREE ELECTIONS CONTINUE TO BE HELD IN WHICH THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE CONSISTENTLY REJECT INDEPENDENCE IS LESS IMPORTANT, IN THIS VIEW, THAN THAT THE HISPANIC POPULATION OF THE ISLAND IS "DOMINATED" AND "COLONIZED" BY "THE USG AND THE MULTINATIONALS." THE LARGE PUERTO RICAN LOWER CLASS, PSOE LEADERS HAVE TOLD US, CANNOT REALLY CAST A "FREE" VOTE ANYWAY, BECAUSE IT IS SO DEEPLY ON THE DOLE FROM THE USG. AT THE SAME TIME, THE PSOE CLEARLY FINDS THE PUERTO RICO QUESTION A SATISFYING MEANS OF GETTING BACK AT THE US IN SOME SMALL WAY FOR OUR SUPPORT OF THE FRANCO REGIME AND LATIN AMERICAN DICTATORSHIPS. MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE THAT PARTY LEADERS FIND ADVOCACY OF PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE A USEFUL AND INEXPENSIVE MEANS OF DEMONSTRATING THEIR INDEPENDENT AND LEFTIST CREDENTIALS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, PERHAPS EVEN MORE NECESSARY NOW THAT THEY HAVE COME AROUND TO ACCEPTING IN PRINCIPLE